

Production No. 9F01

The Simpsons

"HOMER THE HERETIC"

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"HOMER THE HERETIC"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
NED FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER
MAUDE FLANDERS.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
TODD FLANDERS.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
APU.....HANK AZARIA
REV. LOVEJOY.....HARRY SHEARER
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
CHIEF WIGGUM.....HANK AZARIA
KEARNEY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
BILL.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARTY.....HARRY SHEARER
GROUNDSKEEPER WILLIE....DAN CASTELLANETA
JASPER.....HARRY SHEARER
GOD.....HARRY SHEARER
JAMSHED.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
SAILOR.....HANK AZARIA
KRUSTY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
OTTO.....HARRY SHEARER

PAGE 2.

INSURANCE AGENT.....HANK AZARIA
ANNOUNCER.....HARRY SHEARER
COMMENTATOR.....HARRY SHEARER
BORING GUY.....HANK AZARIA
WOMAN.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
SEXY PIRATE.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
DELIVERY BOY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
STOOGES #1.....DAN CASTELLANETA
STOOGES #2.....HANK AZARIA
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
JIMI HENDRIX..... HARRY SHEARER

"HOMER THE HERETIC"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. WOMB

BABY HOMER, nine months along, is floating peacefully in the womb. He does a few graceful somersaults and synchronized swimming moves to the accompaniment of "THE BLUE DANUBE WALTZ"

HOMER (V.O.)

(DREAMILY) Ahhh, another beautiful day

in the womb. (SINGS) La-la-la-la-

la...la-la-la...la-la-la...(SCREAMS)

Homer does synchronized swimming moves in time with the beat. He swims up to the camera a la Esther Williams, smiles, then gracefully swims backward.

Suddenly, the water level starts to drop. Baby Homer starts kicking and **SCREAMING**. He frantically pulls at the umbilical cord and comes up with a frayed end. Homer **SHRIEKS**. A BIG HAND grabs his foot and he struggles desperately to resist.

HOMER

Leggo! Leggo!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

The dreaming HOMER is in bed. MARGE, wearing her Sunday best, is tugging on Homer's exposed foot.

HOMER

I don't know how to breathe!

MARGE

Get up, Homer. It's time for church.

HOMER

(UNDER THE COVERS) Don' wanna go.

MARGE

It's church. You have to go.

HOMER

You go twice.

MARGE

Homer...

HOMER

It's too cold out!

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's bitterly cold and snowy outside. A POLAR BEAR is going through the garbage cans. He pulls out a discarded fish and **CHOMPS** it happily.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARGE

(FIRMLY) I'm tired of having this
argument every Sunday. Get dressed.

She throws Homer's church clothes at him. Homer gets up and starts to put them on.

HOMER

(GROANS) Oh, stupid itchy church
pants...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is tugging on his pants.

HOMER

(GRUNTING NOISES) One size fits all,
my butt!

Marge appears in the doorway.

MARGE

(MAD) Come on. We're going to be
late.

Homer tugs at his pants once more.

SFX: PANTS RIPPING

HOMER

Forget it. I'm not going.

Homer turns and heads back to the bedroom. From behind we
see his underwear through the ripped pants.

MARGE

(FRUSTRATED MURMUR)

INT. SIMPSON CAR

A ticked-off Marge is driving LISA, BART and MAGGIE to
church. The windshield keeps fogging up and Marge has to
keep wiping a small patch to see the road. Maggie licks
the cold babyseat. Her tongue gets stuck. After a BEAT...

BART

Hey, where's Homer?

MARGE

Your father is... resting.

BART

"Resting" hung over, "resting" got
fired..? Help me out here.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - HOMER'S BED

Only Homer's face peeks out from the cozy covers.

HOMER

Ahhh. I'm just a big toasty cinnamon
bun. I never want to leave this bed.
(EYES OPEN) Uh-oh. Gotta take a whiz.
Think, man, think... think, think,
think... (PAUSE) I better get up.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BATHROOM

We see Homer naked from the waist up, framed by the
bathroom doorway.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I'm whizzing with the door open -- and
I love it!

Homer gets in the **SHOWER** and starts to **SING**.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SINGS) Whyyy, oh whyyy... Delilahhh?

(SHIVERS)

Homer switches on a waterproof **SHOWER RADIO** marked "No
Soap-Radio!" The "**BILL and MARTY Show**" is on.

MARTY (V.O.)

It's eleven KBBL degrees below zero. I
hope you're someplace warm.

HOMER

You bet your sweet...

Homer looks around, then smiles to himself.

HOMER (CONT'D)

... ass! (LAUGHS)

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

It's freezing cold. The Simpsons are **SHIVERING**. REVEREND LOVEJOY is wearing a bulky down parka over his vestments. You can see his breath, and there's frost on the pulpit.

LOVEJOY

I'm afraid our furnace isn't working.

MALE PARISHONER (V.O.)

(IRATE) Yeah, what's the story?

LOVEJOY

But let's just put it out of our minds,
and turn to the Lamentation Of Hezron,
Long Version.

Bart and Lisa shoot each other looks of dismay.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer, in a bathrobe and fluffy bear-paw slippers, adjusts the thermostat to a hundred degrees.

CLOSE-UP Simpson stereo. Homer's hand reaches into the frame and pushes all the volume controls to "MAX".

We see Homer dancing around in underwear, white socks and slippers.

SINGERS (V.O.)

(SINGING) Who wears short shorts?

HOMER

(SINGING) I wear short shorts!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

Homer puts on an apron.

HOMER

The perfect chance to make my patented,
space age, out-of-this-world Moon
Waffles.

He rummages through the fridge.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Let's see here... waffle batter...

caramels... liquid smoke...

He dumps everything into a waffle iron and closes the lid.
Excess waffle batter oozes out from under the lid.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Oooh, waffle runoff.

He wipes it off with his finger and **LICKS** it. Homer opens the waffle iron and pries off a misshapen waffle -- the ingredients haven't mixed well. He wraps it around a whole stick of butter and sticks in a fancy toothpick.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Mmm, fattening.

Homer starts to **EAT** the waffle.

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - DAY

Lovejoy is giving a sermon in the chilly church. He brushes his hand against the altar flowers; the flowers **SHATTER**.

LOVEJOY

... and he was cast into the fiery
cauldron of hell!

PAN ACROSS the Simpsons' faces. Their eyes are closed, and they smile longingly at the image. Lisa **SHUDDERS** happily.

LOVEJOY (CONT'D)

The searing heat... the scalding rivers
of molten sulfur...

BART

Ahhh... I'm there.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer is sitting on the floor **MUNCHING** happily. Some butter drips out of the waffle tube onto his bare chest.

HOMER

Uh-oh. (WHISTLES) Here, boy.

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER eagerly licks the butter off his chest. Homer **GIGGLES**.

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

The service is over. **SHIVERING CHURCH MEMBERS** are standing around the front doors of the church. Several of them are jockeying to warm their hands over a big candle. **FLANDERS** is struggling to open the doors, which are encrusted with ice.

FLANDERS

(SLIGHT EDGE OF HYSTERIA) The door's frozen shut... and it's the only way out!

There is **WORRIED MUTTERING** from the churchgoers.

LISA

(TO SELF) "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy..."

BART

Lisa, this is neither the time nor the place.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The **DOORBELL RINGS** and Homer answers. It's a **WOMAN** dressed as a **SEXY PIRATE**.

SEXY PIRATE

Yo Ho Ho! I'm handing out free samples of Cap'n Groggy's hot buttered rum!

On the mug we see the logo is a boozy-looking pirate.

HOMER

Hey, thanks!

SEXY PIRATE

No... thank YOU!

Homer goes back inside and takes a taste.

HOMER

Hmmm... How sweet it is!

Homer sits down and **TURNS ON THE RADIO.**

BILL (V.O.)

That was Johnny Calhoun, with "Gonna Find Me a Genie With a Magic Bikini".

MARTY (V.O.)

Of course, Johnny's next record was a spoken-word album of his right-wing political views, that kinda killed his career. If you can tell me the name of that album, call our contest line -- now!

HOMER

(GASPS) I know that!

FLASH PAN to Homer's record collection -- we see a well-worn copy of the album in question: "These Things I Believe". The album cover shows a stern-faced Johnny Calhoun at the Lincoln Memorial sitting in Lincoln's lap. Homer rushes to the phone and **DIALS.**

HOMER

Hello, this is Homer Simpson.

BILL (V.O.)

Homer... can you name that title?

HOMER

(LOOKING AT THE ALBUM) "This Things I Believe".

MARTY (V.O.)

Uh... can we accept that?

SFX: CASH REGISTER NOISE

BILL (V.O.)

Congratulations, Homer! You just won yourself a boat... trailer... hitch... decal. (LAUGHS)

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

MARTY (V.O.)

Ho-ho!

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

GROUNDSCKEEPER WILLIE is going over the frozen hinges with a blowtorch. The crowd **MUTTERS**, near hysteria.

DEACON

(TO LOVEJOY) They're looking pretty worried.

LOVEJOY

(ASIDE TO DEACON) Huh huh, now's a good time to pass the basket.

The deacon nods and passes the basket.

LOVEJOY (CONT'D)

(CALLING OUT) How's that door coming, Willie?

WILLIE

(GRIMLY) Miracles are your department,

Reverend.

In her pew, Maggie **SUCKS** but can't get any milk from her bottle. She opens the top and turns it upside down. A frozen block of milk slides out.

LOVEJOY

While we're waiting, why don't I read from the Sunday Bulletin? (READS) "Card table for sale. Top badly damaged; leg missing; otherwise fine. One dollar or best offer..."

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is watching TV. The THREE STOOGES are on.

WOMAN (V.O.)

(MARGARET DUMONT TYPE) You must be the three chiropractors I sent for. Now start manipulating my spine.

STOOGES #1 (V.O.)

Hey, Moe, we don't know nothin' about manipulin'.

STOOGES #2 (V.O.)

You heard the lady - grab her spine and get cracking.

SFX: SLAP, BOING

HOMER

Heh-heh-heh... (MAKING AN OBSERVATION)

Moe is their leader.

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

Lovejoy is still **READING** from the bulletin.

LOVEJOY

(READS) "The Senior Gadabouts will not be holding their annual bus trip to the gypsum quarry due to last year's unfortunate coyote attack."

JASPER

(MUTTERS) Poor Elmer. Never knew what hit 'im.

A **CRACKING** sound causes everyone to wheel around hopefully. Willie swings the doors open.

WILLIE

Huzzah!

Everyone makes a mad rush for the exit.

LOVEJOY

Please, Christians, don't push.

Bart scrambles for the exit, walking on top of people's heads.

BART

Excuse me... pardon me... whoop...
comin' through... how ya doin'?... love
that hat, baby...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer sits on the couch with the TV remote control.

HOMER

(CROSSING FINGERS) Come on TV... gimme
some of that sweet, sweet pap!

He switches the channel. It's a dull "Meet the Press" type show.

BORING GUY

Let's define our terms, gentlemen. Are we talking about redistricting, or are we talking about reapportionment? Because the two are by no means the same.

HOMER

(SADLY) Oh, well... can't win 'em all.

Suddenly, the show's **TITLE CARD** appears: "MUNICIPAL ROUNDTABLE".

On the card, in Frank Frazetta style, ONE BRAUNY BUSINESSMAN attacks another with a medieval mace. The other businessman fends it off with his briefcase.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We interrupt this public affairs program to bring you a football game.

HOMER

Yesss!

Homer does a wacky end-zone dance.

EXT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - PARKING LOT

Marge's car won't start.

SFX: CRANKING NOISE

MARGE

(CRANKING-LIKE MURMUR)

SFX: CRANKING NOISE

MARGE (CONT'D)

(CRANKING-LIKE MURMUR)

Finally, the car **STARTS**. Maggie hops up and down excitedly.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Thank goodness. Somebody up there
likes us.

The car **SMASHES** into the church marquee which reads: "Never Fear. God Is Here." The hood **SPRINGS OPEN** and steam pours out.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is watching the football game.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

(BESIDE HIMSELF) Oh, doctor, I do not
believe this! A 98-yard triple reverse
ties the score at 63-63! We've seen
nothing but razzle-dazzle and French
pastry on the half-shell! Three visits
from Morganna The Kissing Bandit... the
astonishing return of Jim Brown...

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

Looking down, Homer spies a shiny object on the floor.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(GASPS) Is that what I think it is?

MUSIC SWELLS. INTERCUT between Homer's incredulous face
and closer and closer shots of the shiny thing -- a penny.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP: a smiling LINCOLN nods his head
encouragingly.

Homer picks it up.

HOMER

(AWED) I... found... a penny!

He strikes a victorious pose.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(THINKING) Could this be the best day
of my life?

A THOUGHT BALLOON reveals Homer's memories of: 1) the day he and Marge got married; 2) a truck labelled "BEER" overturned on its side on the freeway, sending a spray into the air. Homer gaily runs through it barefoot, in shorts, with his mouth open; 3) Homer standing by the door with a stopwatch waiting for pizza delivery.

HOMER (IN THOUGHT BALLOON)

32 minutes... I don't have to pay!

DELIVERY BOY

But this comes out of my salary!

Homer **SLAMS** the door.

THE THOUGHT BALLOON VANISHES.

HOMER

Looks like we have a new champion.

Marge and the kids enter.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ah, my beloved family. How was church?

BART / LISA

(MUTTERED CURSES)

MARGE

(LOUD SINUS-CLEARING NOISES)

Maggie **SNEEZES**. The pacifier flies out of her mouth and bounces off the wall. She catches it with her mouth on the rebound.

HOMER

I, on the other hand, have been having the best day of my life. And I owe it all to skipping church!

MARGE

That's a terrible thing to say. Kids, your father doesn't really mean that.

HOMER

Like fun I don't. Marge, my pants split for a reason.

Bart **PATS** Homer's ass.

BART

Yeah, a big fat reason.

HOMER

Shut up, boy. (TO MARGE) I've finally seen the light. I'm never going to church again.

MARGE

(SHOCKED) Homer! Are you actually giving up your faith?

HOMER

(VEHEMENT) No! No, no, no, no, no.

(THINKS) Well, yes.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

Marge is **SCRAPING** the gunk out of the waffle iron.

MARGE

I can't believe you're giving up
church, Homer.

HOMER

Hey, what's the big deal about going to
some building every Sunday? I mean,
isn't God everywhere?

BART

Amen, brother.

HOMER

And don't you think that the Almighty
has better things to worry about than
where one little guy spends one measly
hour of his week?

BART

Tell it, daddy!

HOMER

You could never enjoy yourself Saturday
night because you were dreading the
next morning. Now Saturday can be fun
again!

BART

Testify!

Bart is now **CLAPPING** his hands and rocking back and forth,
a la Stevie Wonder.

MARGE

(VERY ANNOYED MURMUR)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Marge is at the foot of the bed **PRAYING** for Homer's soul.

MARGE

Lord, my husband is by no means
perfect, but he's a kind, decent man.
Please show him the error of his ways.

HOMER

(SEDUCTIVE) Marge, come to bed.

MARGE

No, Homer. (CONTINUES PRAYING) He
doesn't mean to be sacrilegious, Lord.
He just likes to sleep in on Sundays...

Homer strokes Marge's beehive amorously. Marge pulls away.

HOMER

(TEMPTINGLY) Maarge... come to bed

Marge...

Marge **PRAYS** to herself.

MARGE

Lord he's not a bad person, Lord.
Really, he just sometimes...

HOMER

(SEDUCTIVE) It's good for what ails
ya...

Marge continues to PRAY.

MARGE

He doesn't mean any harm.

HOMER

(SING-SONG) I can wait all -- (FALLS
ASLEEP, SNORES)

MARGE

(CONTINUES PRAYING)

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

HOMER'S DREAM

He is sleeping on the couch. Suddenly, the earth starts to TREMBLE. Pictures SHAKE OFF the walls, lamps TIP OVER, etc. Homer's TV flashes the word "UH-OH!" A GIANT HAND TEARS THE ROOF OFF the house, revealing the moon and stars. Homer cringes in terror. GOD, about twelve feet high, steps into the room from above.

[NOTE: We never see God's face; it's always cut off by the frame, or hokily blocked by foreground objects as in "Brush With Greatness."]

GOD

(THUNDEROUS VOICE) THOU HAST FORSAKEN
MY CHURCH!

HOMER

(QUAKING) Well... kind of... but...

GOD

BUT WHAT?

HOMER

I'm not a bad guy. I work hard and I love my kids. So why should I spend half my Sunday hearing about how I'm going to Hell?

GOD'S VOICE becomes softer and less intimidating.

GOD

Hmm, you've got a point there.

God motions for Homer to sit next to him on the couch.

GOD (CONT'D)

(CONFIDENTIALLY) You know, sometimes even I'd rather be watching football. Does St. Louis still have a team?

HOMER

No. They moved to Phoenix.

GOD

(DISAPPOINTED) Oh yeah.

HOMER

You know what I really hate about church? These boring sermons.

GOD

(SIGHS) I couldn't agree more. That Reverend Lovejoy really displeases me. I think I'll give him a canker sore.

HOMER

Give him one for me.

GOD

I will.

HOMER

(GAINING CONFIDENCE) So I figure I
should just try to live right, and
worship you in my own way.

GOD

Homer, it's a deal. Now, if you'll
excuse me, I have to appear on a
tortilla in Mexico.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer smiles in his sleep. Marge looks worried.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Homer and Lisa are strolling in the yard. There's a new
serenity to Homer. He's wearing a St. Francis-like
bathrobe.

LISA

Dad, can I ask you a question?

HOMER

Sure, honey.

LISA

Why are you dedicating your life to
blasphemy?

HOMER

Lisa, what I'm doing isn't blasphemy,
it's heresy. You understand, Punkin?

Homer **KISSES** Lisa.

Some birds land on Homer's shoulders, and a squirrel hops
into his hand.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Hello, my animal friends. Peace be
with you.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Homer is in the shower. The animals are still on his head
and shoulders.

HOMER

(IRRITATED) Guys, please, could you
give me five minutes?

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Rev. Lovejoy is having dinner with the Simpsons.

MARGE

(CASUAL) Reverend Lovejoy, I had a bit
of an ulterior motive in inviting you
to dinner.

LOVEJOY

(SHOCKED) What?!

MARGE

No, it's nothing bad. I'm just
concerned, because my husband hasn't
been attending your services lately.

HOMER

Well, I wasn't sure I was doing the
right thing. But then God Himself told
me I should seek a new path.

LOVEJOY

(DISBELIEVING) Oh, really?

HOMER

Yeah, He appeared before me in a dream,
and I knew that was special 'cause I
usually dream about naked... (COVERING)
Marge.

MARGE

(DISPLEASED MURMUR)

BART

So Homer, you saw the Big Cheese?
What'd he look like?

HOMER

Perfect teeth -- nice smell -- a class
act all the way.

Marge looks upset.

MARGE

Homer, you're crazy. (TO LOVEJOY)
Tell him this is all crazy.

LOVEJOY

Homer, I'd like you to remember Matthew
7:26 -- "The foolish man, who built his
house on sand."

HOMER

(FAKING IT) And YOU remember...
Matthew.. uh... 21:17.

LOVEJOY

"And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany, and he lodged there"?

HOMER

(COVERING) Yeah... think about it.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

Homer is on the phone.

HOMER

Hello, work? This is Homer Simpson. I won't be coming in tomorrow -- Religious holiday... The uh, Feast of... (LOOKING AT SIGN) Maximum Occupancy.

Homer hangs up and dusts his palms.

MOE

Pretty slick.

HOMER

You should join my religion, Moe. It's great. No Hell... two Heavens....

MOE

Sorry, Homer. I was born a Snake-Handler and I'll die a Snake-Handler.

Moe gestures emphatically. We see that his hand is swollen and dotted with band-aids.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer is sitting on the couch.

SFX: DOORBELL

Homer opens the door and Ned Flanders is there with his family. He wears a guitar.

FLANDERS

Neighbor, I heard about your heresy and
we've made it our mission to win you
back to the flock.

HOMER

No sale.

Flanders starts **STRUMMING** his guitar.

FLANDERS

Homer, Christian life isn't all praying
and sacrifice. Hey, dig this!

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) God said to Noah there's
gonna be a floody, floody --

Homer **SHUTS THE DOOR.**

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DAY

Homer sits at his console. The **PHONE RINGS.** Homer picks
it up.

FLANDERS FAMILY (V.O.)

(SINGING ON PHONE) Rain came down...
it started to get muddy, muddy...

Homer **SLAMS** down the phone.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Homer drives in his car. The Flanders' car pulls up next
to him. Flanders motions for Homer to roll down his
window. Homer does.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) Get those animals (CLAP) out
on the arky, arky --

HOMER

Leave me alone!

Homer hits the gas and **ZOOMS** away.

TODD

Dad, the heathen's getting away.

FLANDERS

(DETERMINED) I see him, son.

Flanders **HITS THE GAS**. He follows Homer in a French Connection-style chase:

1) Homer heads towards a railroad crossing. A train is approaching. Homer **BREAKS THROUGH** the barrier, speeds up and gets through just before the train crosses. Flanders jumps his car through the open doors of a boxcar on the train and continues after Homer.

2) Homer reaches around his car and picks up items which he throws out the window at Flanders' car. Flanders turns the steering wheel as he swerves to avoid the flying items.

MAUDE

Tire iron at three o'clock.

FLANDERS

Check.

3) Flanders follows Homer onto a dock. Homer jumps his car off the end of the dock, landing on a ferry, which is pulling out. Flanders gets to the end of the dock -- his wheels hang over the edge. Homer waves at Flanders like the Frenchman in The French Connection. Homer **CHUCKLES**, then gets a little worried.

HOMER

(TO SAILOR) Where are we going?

SAILOR

Garbage Island!

PULL BACK to reveal heaps of trash with rats running around the ferry.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Homer's car pulls up. It's covered with garbage. He opens the door and a SEAGULL flies out.

HOMER

Shoo!

Flanders' car pulls up.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(MOANS) Oh Flanders, when are you going to get the point? I don't like you. I don't like your family. And I don't like your stupid religion. Now, get out of my life.

FLANDERS

(SADLY) All right, Homer, if that's the way you really want it.

Flanders' family gets back in their car. Homer looks at his own car.

HOMER

Hey Flanders, can I borrow your hose?

FLANDERS

(BITTER) Go over and get it yourself.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ON TV

We see an Itchy & Scratchy cartoon entitled: "Flay Me To The Moon." Scratchy is sitting in a chair reading a newspaper with the headline, "Moon Launch Today." Itchy sneaks in, grabs Scratchy's tongue, which is dangling out of his mouth, pulls it out a window, drags it to the launching pad and ties it around a rocket which blasts off. The rocket goes into space, stretching the tongue all the way to the moon. Back at Scratchy's house, his tongue unspools with the **SOUND** of a **FISHING REEL**. He doesn't notice. The rocket orbits the moon, wrapping Scratchy's tongue around it, then tying it in a nice bow. The tongue starts to retract. In his home, Scratchy looks out the window and sees the moon hurtling towards him. Scratchy hides in a closet, but the moon lands on Scratchy's house, smashing it. CUT TO Mission Control, manned entirely by mice, who **APPLAUD** and **POP CHAMPAGNE**. The End.

PULL BACK to see Homer in his bathrobe and Bart and Lisa in their Sunday clothes sitting on the couch and **LAUGHING**. Marge enters in her coat.

MARGE

Let's go, kids.

BART

How come we have to go to church and
Dad gets to stay home and watch
cartoons?

MARGE

(DISPLEASED MURMUR) (TO HOMER) I have
a responsibility to raise these
children right and unless you change,
I'll have to tell them their father
is... well, wicked.

HOMER

Kids, let me tell you about another so-called wicked guy. He had long hair and some "wild" ideas and he didn't always do what other people thought was right. And that man's name was... I forget. But the point is... uh, I forget that too. Marge, you know who I'm talking about -- he used to drive that blue car --

MARGE

Kids, could you wait outside for us?

Bart and Lisa exit.

MARGE (CONT'D)

If I've ever asked you to do anything, do this. Come to church today.

HOMER

Nah.

MARGE

Don't make me choose between my man and my God, because you just can't win.

HOMER

There you go again. Always taking someone else's side. Flanders... the water department... God...

MARGE

Homer, I'm only going to ask you one last time. Are you sure you won't come with us to church?

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Coming up next, "Make Your Own Ladder."

HOMER

Very sure.

A sad Marge exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BASEMENT

A light comes on. Furtively, Homer takes out a cardboard box marked "OLD PHONE BOOKS 1976-1978." He lifts out a stack of PHONE BOOKS, then a false bottom, to reveal a small stack of old "Playdude Magazines". He extracts a copy of the July 1966 "Playdude" Magazine and opens it to the centerfold. We see a curvy blonde in a very tame swimsuit that reveals a narrow band of her waist.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Wow. The "Take It Off... Take It All Off" Girl. (FLIPS PAGE) Ooh, white lipstick.

EXT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - DAY

The marquee reads: "Today's Topic: When Homer Met Satan."

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Lovejoy is delivering a passionate sermon.

LOVEJOY

My friends, the devil walks among us.

The CHURCH GOERS all look around, excited. Bart grabs an OLD MAN with a goatee.

BART

Ooop, I got him.

LOVEJOY

No, don't look for the pitchfork and
pointy tail. Today's devil has assumed
a more seductive form, pleasing to the
eye.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

We see Homer in his underwear, cleaning his ear with one
finger. In his other hand he holds a Playdude Magazine.

HOMER

(LEERING) Ooh! An interview with
Buckminster Fuller... wait, that's no
good. (FLIPS PAGE) Hey, now we're
talkin'. (READS) "Our Unabashed
Dictionary defines IUD as 'Love Springs
Internal'." (CHUCKLES, THEN) I don't
get it.

SFX: DOORBELL

Homer opens the door. Krusty is there wearing a yarmulke
and holding a collection canister.

KRUSTY

Hello. I'm collecting for the
Brotherhood of Jewish Clowns.

(SOMBERLY) Last year, tornados claimed
the lives of seventy-five Jewish
clowns. The worst incident was during
our convention in Lubbock, Texas.
There were floppy shoes and rainbow
wigs everywhere... it was terrible...
(KRUSTY SOBS)

HOMER

Wait a minute, is this a religious
thing?

KRUSTY

A religious clown thing, yes.

HOMER

Sorry.

KRUSTY

But what...

Homer **SLAMS** the door in his face.

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - DAY

LOVEJOY

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it
holy!"

INT. QUIK-E-MART - DAY

Homer, in his bathrobe and shorts, comes to the counter
with a case of beer and a package of cigars.

HOMER

Apu, I see you're not in church.

APU

Oh, but I am. I have a shrine to
Ganesha, the god of worldly wisdom,
located in the employee lounge.

Apu points to a small closet-like room. There's a bar with
a couple of wire hangers on it. Beneath this is a chair
and a large bronze icon of an elephant headed god
surrounded by many lit candles. Homer walks up to the
shrine.

HOMER

(TO ELEPHANT) Hey Ganesha, want a
peanut?

APU

Please do not offer my god a peanut.

Homer holds up a keychain with a troll doll attached.

HOMER

(AMUSED) Hey, did you know your God
was made in Tijuana? (CHUCKLES)

APU

(OFFENDED) Mr. Simpson, please pay for
your purchases and get out and come
again.

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - CONTINUOUS

LOVEJOY

"Pride goeth before destruction!"

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer has a beer in one hand and a cigar in the other.

HOMER

Boy, everyone is stupid except me.

Homer **DOZES OFF**. The cigar drops out of his mouth and lands on another old issue of Playdude. It reads: "Don't Laugh: It's A Car From Japan!" **OMINOUS MUSIC** starts. The smoldering cigar ash bursts into flame. The flame spreads to the pile of magazines, then trails along a frayed electrical cord to an overloaded octopus outlet. The flame sprawls out along all the cords, to various appliances.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BASEMENT

The flame spreads to boxes labelled, "OILY RAGS" and "BLASTING CAPS." They both **BURST** into flame.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room is in flames. Homer happily dozes, oblivious.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The living room is on fire. Homer is smiling in his sleep. Santa's Little Helper tugs insistently on Homer's robe as if trying to wake him up. The dog finally pulls a candy bar out of Homer's pocket. He happily runs out the doggy door, leaving Homer.

Homer's couch starts to burn. Two mini-blazes race down Homer's two hairs. He wakes up with a start.

HOMER

(SCREAMS) Fire! What do I do? What do
I do? (COUGHS) (REMEMBERING) Oh, the
song! The song! (SINGS) When a fire
starts to burn / There's a lesson you
must learn / Something... something,
then you'll see / You'll avoid
catastrophe! (MOANS)

He COUGHS again, reels dizzily, and passes out on the floor.

POV - THROUGH BINOCULARS

We see the Simpson house burning.

APU (V.O.)

(GASPS) Fire at the old Simpson place!

INT. QUIK-E-MART - CONTINUOUS

Apu proudly dons a helmet reading "Fire Chief", to DRAMATIC MUSIC. He is about to leave when he notices DOLPH, JIMBO and KEARNEY lurking in the store.

APU

You are on your honor not to steal
anything.

KEARNEY

(EVILLY) Oh, we wooooon't....

We see Kearney eating cereal right out of a box.

Apu eyes them uneasily. He picks up his four-year-old nephew, JAMSHED, sits him behind the counter, and puts a smock on him.

APU

Little Jamshed... the store is in your hands.

JAMSHED

How I have waited for this day.

Jamshed holds Apu's sawed-off shotgun. The punks react with fright.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD STREET - DAY

A fire truck, with "Springfield Volunteer Fire Dept." inscribed on the side, SCREAMS down the street, with Barney, Otto, Mrs. Milhouse, Krusty and the Mole Man hanging from the sides and back.

The truck ZOOMS down the city streets then, SCREECHES to a stop. We see there are baby ducks crossing in front of it. Apu idles the engine and looks to the side. He sees a three-block-long line of baby ducks waiting to cross.

APU

(ANGRY) You ducks are really trying my patience. (SOFTENING) But you're so cute.

INT. SIMPSON CAR

Marge, at the wheel, sees the fire.

MARGE

Oh my God! Our house is on fire!

LISA

(GASPS)

BART

I need an alibi. Alibi, alibi...

LISA

Bart, you were at church!

BART

(SLY) Yeah, that's it -- I was at church.

He slickly adjusts his cuffs.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer's body lies on the floor. Flanders **BANGS** on the window.

FLANDERS

Homer! Homer!

Flanders runs in, **COUGHING**, he picks Homer up in a fireman's carry and heads for the front door, but a flaming beam **FALLS** and blocks his path.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

Nooo!

He looks around, and heads for the back door. He's almost there when a section of floor **COLLAPSES** under him. Only Homer's head and feet prevent them from falling completely through to the basement. Homer **GROANS**.

With a **GRUNT** of exertion, Flanders pulls himself up through the hole and carries Homer up the stairs a la Rhett Butler.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - BEAT LATER

Flanders opens the second-story window and tosses a mattress out. With great effort, he starts to push Homer out.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

Dear Lord, may your loving hand guide

Homer to the mattress square and true.

Flanders pushes Homer out. Homer falls, lands squarely on the mattress and bounces back through the first floor window into the fire.

SFX: GLASS BREAKING

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

(SIGHS) O-kay.

Flanders does a swan dive out the window, aims himself so that he too bounces off the mattress and through the first floor window. A beat later he emerges pulling Homer out with him. Homer **COUGHS**, then opens his eyes.

HOMER

Flanders, you saved me. Why?

FLANDERS

Heck, you'd have done the same for me.

Homer pictures what he'd do if the roles were reversed.

HOMER'S FANTASY

Flanders' house is burning. Flanders **BANGS** on the window from inside.

FLANDERS

Help! Help!

Homer lies in a hammock sipping a drink and **CHUCKLING**.

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

(SWEETLY) That's right, old friend.

Marge, Bart and Lisa rush up to Homer.

LISA/BART

Dad!

MARGE

Oh, Homey! Are you all right?

HOMER

(WEAKLY) Forget about... me... save
our... appliances... and... knick-
knacks...

Homer passes out. His head falls to the ground with a
KLUNK.

FIREFIGHTING MONTAGE:

A) We see a house in flames. The roof **COLLAPSES**. PULL
BACK to reveal we are looking at Lisa's dollhouse. Otto
and BARNEY look on.

OTTO

Don't worry, I saved the baby and the
plastic ham.

He holds up the toy items.

B) Marge's stockpile of hairspray cans **EXPLODES** one by
one, as a few **FIREFIGHTERS** look on helplessly.

WIGGUM

(GRIMLY) Let 'em go, men. There's
nothing we can do now.

C) A small **CROWD** is watching the blaze. It **ERUPTS** in
various colors, which flicker on their faces.

CROWD

Ooohhh! Ahhhh!

D) Krusty runs out of the house to Homer and Marge. The
cat has attached itself onto Krusty's face by its claws.

KRUSTY

(TIGHTLY) I saved your cat.

Krusty painfully pries the cat off his face and hurls it to
the ground.

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

Ow, that hurts.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Lisa is standing with Homer.

LISA

(DRAMATICALLY) Truly, this was an Act
of God.

Suddenly, a stray flame licks Flanders' house and it starts
to burn.

HOMER

Hey, wait a minute... Flanders is a
regular Charlie Church and God didn't
save him!

Just then, a small rain cloud materializes over the
Flanders house. It quickly puts out the fire and moves on,
leaving a beautiful rainbow.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD

CLOSE UP on a blazer pocket with the logo of "Total
Disaster Insurance." Widen to reveal the Simpsons'
INSURANCE AGENT. He's writing out a report on a clipboard.

INSURANCE AGENT

Any valuables in the house?

HOMER

(LYING BADLY) Well, the Picasso... my
collection of classic cars...

INSURANCE AGENT

Sorry, this policy only covers actual
losses, not made-up stuff.

HOMER

(BITTERLY) Well, that's just great.

We see a fireman's hat sliding across the snow. It stops and falls over revealing Maggie underneath.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - SIDEWALK

KENT BROCKMAN stands on the sidewalk with a MAKE-UP MAN.

KENT BROCKMAN

A little more soot on the forehead...

could somebody muss up my hair? (LOOKS

AT CAMERA) Oh, we're on.

He shoves the make-up man out of frame and talks to camera.

KENT BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

Fire: Man's oldest foe. Insatiable...

remorseless... unquenchable...

WIGGUM (V.O.)

(SURPRISED) Hey, it's out!

SFX: CHEER

Kent reacts, then turns back to camera.

KENT BROCKMAN

(CHIPPER) Coming up next... Which work

better -- springy clothes pins, or the

other kind?

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DAY

The fire is out but the house still smolders.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM

Lisa grabs her very hot saxophone, and immediately juggles it like a hot potato.

LISA

(JERRY LEWIS) Oh heat. Oh burning! Oh

pain!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S BEDROOM

Bart is throwing things into a small fire that still blazes.

BART

Report cards... math book...

humiliating sailor suit... (CHUCKLES)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

The kitchen is smoky but not ruined. The Simpsons, the firefighters, and Rev. Lovejoy are being served hot chocolate by Marge.

HOMER

You know, I have a feeling there's a lesson here.

MARGE

Yes, the lesson is...

HOMER

No, don't tell me, I'll get it... Oh, I know! The Lord is vengeful! (FALLING TO HIS KNEES) O Spiteful One! Show me who to smite, and they shall be smoten!

FLANDERS

(CHUCKLES) Homer, God didn't set your house on fire.

LOVEJOY

No, but he was working in the hearts of your friends and neighbors when they went to your aid, be they (INDICATES FLANDERS) Christian... (INDICATES KRUSTY) Jew... or (INDICATES APU) Miscellaneous...

APU

(MIFFED) Hindu. There are 700 million
of us.

LOVEJOY

Ah, that's super.

HOMER

(MOVED) I was rude to every one of you...
and you saved my life, when you could have
just left me to fry, like the proverbial
pancake that I am.

MARGE

Oh Homie, I'm so glad to hear you say
that.

Marge hugs Homer.

LOVEJOY

(TO HOMER) Homer, when you belong to a
church, you're part of a community of
caring people. That's one advantage
Christianity has over Homerism.

HOMER

(FIRMLY) Let's just say there were good
things in both religions.

LOVEJOY

(WARMLY) It's a deal.

They shake hands.

LOVEJOY (CONT'D)

Now, would you give church another try?

HOMER

I'll be there next Sunday. Front row,
center!

INT. CHURCH - FOLLOWING SUNDAY

In the front row, Homer is **SNORING**, his feet up on the pew and his head resting on Maude Flanders' shoulder. Maude tries to push him off. An embarrassed Marge hides her face with a bulletin.

HOMER'S DREAM

Homer and God are walking in heaven.

HOMER

God, I've got to ask you something.

They pass BEN FRANKLIN and JIMI HENDRIX playing a **CLATTERY** game of air hockey.

BEN FRANKLIN

That's game, Hendrix.

HENDRIX

Three out of five, Franklin.

They resume playing. God puts his arm around Homer as they continue walking.

HOMER

What's the meaning of life?

GOD

Homer, I can't tell you that.

HOMER

C'mon.

GOD

You'll find out when you die.

FADE TO BLACK

Over the Executive Producer's credits:

HOMER (V.O.)

I can't wait that long.

GOD (V.O.)

You can't wait six months?

HOMER (V.O.)

No, tell me now!

GOD (V.O.)

Well... okay. The meaning of life
is...

A BLARING FOX PROMO for "Drexell's Class" cuts off God's
message.

THE END